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Subject: EPA Daily Update

EPA Update on Gold King Mine Response Efforts for August 21, 2015

EPA is committed to working closely with response agencies and state and local officials to ensure the safety of community members, respond to concerns and to evaluate impact to water quality.

EPA Staff Deployed

EPA currently has deployed more than 210 employees and contractors for the response. The U.S. Coast Guard has provided 14 responders. There are also currently at least 20 different state and local agencies involved in the response working to help ensure the health and safety of the public.

Mine Discharge Treatment

The Gold King Mine is releasing water at the rate of approximately 585 gallons per minute. Water is captured and treated at a system of impoundments before being discharged to Cement Creek.

Unified Command in Durango, Colorado

To date, we have tested 282 private wells in Colorado and 114 private wells in New Mexico. After the initial round of sampling, we identified seven wells that required a follow-up test. Following the confirmation tests, only two of the original seven wells still indicated exceedances for Arsenic, Iron and Manganese. These two wells are located near Durango, CO, between Baker's Bridge and the 32nd St. Bridge. These homes are

being provided bottled water and the EPA is coordinating with the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment, LaPlata County and the homeowners to explore next steps.

Unified Command in Farmington, New Mexico

New Mexico

EPA sampled finished water at the entrance into Morningstar's distribution system. The sample will be analyzed for total and dissolved metals. Ten teams of EPA, NMED and EPA contractors sampled thirty - eight private water wells. EPA collected 9 surface water and sediment samples from the drinking water intake locations. Data is being posted on the www.epa.gov/goldkingmine.

Navajo Nation

EPA is committed to working collaboratively with the Navajo Nation on response activities related to the Gold King Mine release. Since August 13, EPA has had a full-time liaison officer to the Navajo Nation's Command Center in Window Rock to discuss and plan short- and long-term EPA assistance to the tribe.

EPA continues to arrange for hay deliveries for livestock on the Navajo Nation, to hold regular calls with tribal officials for sharing and evaluating water sampling data, and to provide other technical assistance to the tribe aimed at restoring San Juan River irrigation canal water for agricultural purposes.

Arizona/Utah

EPA will continue to collect water and sediment samples from Lake Powell near the inlet of the San Juan River for the next two weeks. Given the recent sampling results of reduced metals in the plume, EPA expects no significant impacts to Lake Powell associated with the Gold King Mine release.